

Next GARS meeting on February 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Personal and family emergency preparedness — Will Perkins, W1ZR

The GArzette

The official newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
February 2010 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 19, Issue 2



Two hams debate a purchase at the 2010 TechFest. (Photo by Brian Page, N4TRB)

TechFest attracts 'well over 200,' despite bad weather, icy roads

Despite wintry conditions that froze roads and kept a few antennas on the ground, the TechFest indoor hamfest on Jan. 9 was successful beyond expectations.

Attendance was "well over 200," says *Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV*, president of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS), TechFest sponsor. "It was a little greater than the year before, even with the poor weather."

TechFest was held for the fourth

straight year at St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Church in Lawrenceville. GARS has sponsored TechFest since 1998.

"We came close to rescheduling, but at the last minute decided to go ahead. The ice seemed to be very scattered. If it got you it got you, but most of us had clear roads."

Messages about the weather bounced back and forth on the GARS Yahoo! Group as late as the previous

afternoon. *Eddie Foust, WD4JEM*, posted a road report at about 4 p.m., but concluded: "Tomorrow morning is going to be cold, but the coffee and chili should be hot."

One casualty of the weather, ironically, was the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) emergency-communications trailer — it couldn't be moved from its parking place, so it couldn't be taken to TechFest.

"I don't know exactly what happened with the trailer, but I believe that the screw jack that holds up the trailer tongue was apparently water-logged and frozen and could not be operated," says *Paul Kelley, W4KLY*, the ARES member charged with staffing the trailer. "There must be a lesson here!"

In addition to club displays and a Linux forum, license exams were held, with nine applicants, four successfully passing the Technician exam, and none upgrading to General or Extra.

David Adcock, KA4KKF, once again chaired TechFest. Adcock also handled set-up and take-down duties. His crew included *Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO*, sponsors; *Kelly Everest, K4NFX*, parking lot and tailgaters; *Schklar*, club liaison; *David Bruse, W4DTR*, forums; *Randy Collins, N4COR*, food; and *Ray Bailey, N4GYN*, publicity.

Continued on page 4

Election of this year's GARS officers will be held at the monthly meeting, Feb. 9, 2010.

The executive committee has nominated:

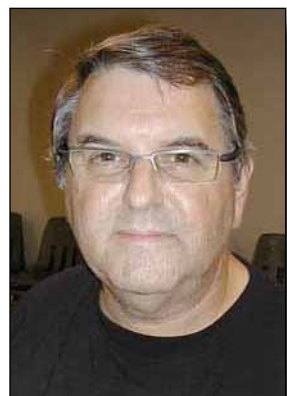
President Kyle Albritton, W4KDA
Vice President Earl Whatley, AF4FG
Treasurer Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC
Secretary Hal Collier, W4IGE
Program Chair, Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO

Further nominations will be accepted and argument heard before the call for vote.

A note from the President

Well, right now, 9:15 p.m. Wednesday evening, we are on the GARS Roundtable Net. The topic for the evening was “your first contact.” It’s great to hear about diverse experiences. You just never know what Kyle is planning for a topic. So don’t miss the net. And don’t miss the Monday Want Swap and Information nets.

TechFest was a huge success. Despite the weather, more than 200 folks turned out to visit the dozen or so exhibits. Plenty of GARS folks were there to help, and



Norm Schklar
WA4ZXV

we held a productive testing session. Thanks, everyone.

Elections are during the February meeting. So come out and cast your vote. We’ll have an almost complete turnover in the executive committee. The floor will be open for nominations up until the time to cast your vote.

How far would you go to beat a neighbor in a contest? Many of you know I have a neighbor who really enjoys contesting. This past weekend (*column was submitted Jan. 31 — Ed.*) was the CQ 160 Meter CW contest. I started working the contest a little after 5 p.m. on Friday afternoon, until about 7 p.m., then worked sporadically until about 10 p.m. I later woke up at about 2:30 a.m. (I don’t need to explain to those over 60) and decided to check the band. I worked for about 30 minutes until the power went out. Of course, the first thing I thought was that I

blew a fuse. But the problem was greater than just my shack or my house. When I spoke with my ham buddy(?) on Saturday, he mentioned a blown transformer on his block. It seems mighty suspicious to me that the transformer went out just after he shut down his station. I just wonder if he did this on purpose so I couldn’t get ahead. I guess I’ll just need to make sure I have the generator connected (and check for sand in the tank) next time we’re competing. Anyway, I enjoyed the contest — or the part I was able to work. Working on Worked All States CW and WAS RTTY.

Many of you probably have heard me talk about using trees in both neighbors’ yards. One with permission and the other was a house that was burned out over a year ago and no one lived there. Well, the house was sold and demolished this week. The tree I’ve been using is to be cut down. So I spent an afternoon this week rearranging my loop. I must say the help of my ham neighbor made the job a lot easier. Why I helped him put up an inverted L for 160 a couple weeks ago I just don’t know. I could have waited until after the contest!

I attended the state ARES meeting in January. It was interesting to hear about some of the latest happenings in ARES, D-Star and the National Weather Service. A lot of effort went into the event, and it paid off with what looked like the greatest attendance in several years.

Meeting is Feb. 9. Hope to see you there.

73, Norm, WA4ZXV

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to n2est@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The GARzette articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to The GARzette.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s issue.

For additional info contact:
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(678) 380-8025

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MFJ founder to speak at Ga. Tech

Martin F. Jue, founder of MFJ Enterprises, will speak to amateurs on Feb. 25, 7 p.m., in the Van Leer building at Georgia Tech.

Admission is free, refreshments will be free, and door prizes will be awarded — including MFJ-259B antenna analyzers.

After the talk, Jue will take questions from the audience. This is an opportunity to speak to the ultimate MFJ insider.

The talk is sponsored by both the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club and the Atlanta Radio Club.

Talk-in will be on Georgia Tech's repeater 145.15 (-1) and the Atlanta Radio Club's repeater 146.82 (-1).

The Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, making it the oldest radio club in Georgia. The Atlanta Radio Club is a close second.



BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You

If you are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities and have an interest in radio technology, Venture Crew 73 is for you.

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.

- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Marguerite D'Youville Catholic Church, 85 Gloster Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044.

- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month. We enjoy:

- o Camping
- o Hiking
- o Horse Back Riding
- o Shooting Sports

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of amateur radio.

- For more information, either show up at our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY, Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

- o Phone: 770-712-9069
 - o Email: committeechair@venturecrew73.org
- Jeff Lee, AF4JL, Venture Crew 73 Advisor
- o Phone: 678-475-3165
 - o Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

WD4STR
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)
440.550 + (5 MHz)

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

TechFest continued from page 1

At lunchtime, GARS served Collins's "famous burgers and dogs with all the trimmings," says Schklar. "Also four pots of judged chili and a vat or GARS." Collins won the chili cookoff.

Among those GARS members who prepared food at TechFest were: *Bob Pursley, WD4KQQ*; Jackson; *John Newman, N4HJ*; *Ray Bailey, N4JYN*; *Doug Kregel, KB6RRX*; and *Karen Albritton, KI4HPP*.

Many other GARS members helped make TechFest a reality (and N2EST sincerely apologizes for not getting all their names! – Ed.)

"I heard nothing but good and better about the event," Schklar says. "We had more clubs participate, more technical exhibits, two forums and good food. There was plenty of room to just sit and talk with friends."

"It is getting harder to top TechFest every year," Adcock says. ■



Scenes from the 2010 TechFest. (various photographers)





Dog show effort another success

Members of GARS and Gwinnett ARES teamed up again this last weekend — Feb. 5-7 — to help direct parking at a southside dog show.

The two clubs have worked at the Cherokee Rose Cluster dog show twice a year for the last 15 years, raising money for club activities.

Amy Kendrick, KE4IKF; David Adcock, KA4KKF; and Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV organized club efforts.

Among those hams who worked the dog show were: Carter Wood, AG4LK; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO; Bob Pursley, WD4KQQ; Paul Kelley, W4KLY; Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; Joel Barrett, W4JOL; Randy Collins, N4COR; John Davis, WB4QDX; Dave Adanich, K8WDJ; Ryan Duncan, KI4CSM; Tim Blitch, N4EEE; Alex Blitch, K4ALX; Eddie Foust, WD4JEM; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Bill Stewman, W5RQR; Jim Massara, N2EST; Dozier Griffith, WA4DEO; Mike Weathers, ND4V; Chris Fowler, K3DC; Hal Collier, W4IGE; Jon Spencer, KJ4JZH; Larry Long, K9LAR; Danny Kelley, KI4KXO; Brian Page, N4TRB; and Joshua Brinker, W9JPB. ■

ARES inaugurates new facility with drill

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) christened its space last month at the new emergency operations center with its first meeting — and its first drill at the new facility.

A “higher than normal” number of ARES members attended the first meeting at the just-opened Gwinnett Emergency Operations Center (GEOC) in Lawrenceville, according to emergency coordinator John Davis, WB4QDX. The meeting was on Jan. 26.

The meeting space, accessible only through a series of secured doors, was a high-ceilinged room equipped with rows of desks, all facing toward a wall that accommodated the screen of an overhead projection system. The room itself was surrounded by smaller rooms, designed for members of the media in the event of an emergency.

The ARES room, 12” x 12” and with tabletop space mounted on two walls, was just a few yards down the hall from this larger room. Davis reports that all rigs, which have already arrived, should be installed some time in February.

During the meeting, Earl Whatley, AF4FG, took small groups of members into the ARES room to explain its features.

After that, ARES members were thrown into an impromptu exercise in which most hams were prepared with only a handi-talkie.

“It started with the scenario of an earthquake in Gwinnett County, and ARES was tasked to communicate a list of survivor names to EMA,” Davis says. “Another list of names was provided that were to be communicated by a more secure means that could not be monitored by a scanner.

“The objective was to organize communications with little direc-

tion in a somewhat chaotic environment and minimal equipment and see how effective we could be.”

Leadership emerged immediately. EOC team leader David Adcock, KA4KKF, stepped up and designated frequencies for communicating with the EOC, then assigned each response-team leader to a group of communicators.

To maintain security, some operators began using cell phones — assuming cellular communications would still be active in such an emergency — because HTs were not secure.

Operators also used both VHF and UHF frequencies, and they minimized interference between radios operating in close proximity.

Almost 200 names were sent in about 20 minutes of operation. The entire exercise, including instructions, took about 40 minutes.

“I think it was a success,” Davis says.

After the exercise, ARES members discussed — much of it on the ARES Yahoo! Group — the implications of the exercise outcome.

Almost everyone discussed the need for digital modes.

“I had everything I needed to do a simple digital mode (fldigi) in my vehicle in the parking lot,” writes Jon Spencer, KJ4JZH. “But ... they were in the car! I doubt that anyone else at the meeting could have done fldigi with me.”

“One of the most important things about our bags of tricks, is that for ANY solution to work, we really need to practice it and become proficient in it” writes Ed Woodruff, WA4YIH, assistant EC for digital technology. “The moral of the story: Respond fast and reliably and then optimize! ■

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule.

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m.
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7 p.m.
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street, Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 a.m.
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9 a.m.
Marietta First United Meth. Church
Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave.
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(707)973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7 p.m.
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd.
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3-5 p.m.

We had five VEs present and only one applicant
VEs present included *Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV; David Bruse, W4DTR; Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN; Royce Stovall, KD4EXY; and Mark Fehig, WA6NGC*

The applicant passed a Technician test but failed the General.

These tests are given at 3:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month except December.

If you want to take a test, you should bring a photo ID (e.g. driver's license, student ID, etc.), your original license (if you have one) and a copy of the license, as well as original CSCE and copy for prior elements passed. Minors must have two forms of ID and a Social Security number. Be sure to bring a pen and pencil with eraser, a calculator with its memory cleared, and an exam fee of \$14 cash (checks are not accepted). Walk-ins are welcome. No pre-registration is required.

73,
Frank Sauciunas, KF4TQV
Webmaster: Lawrenceville
Masonic Lodge No. 131
Lodge web page: <http://vlodge131.org>
Email: kf4tqv@charter.net
<http://webpages.charter.net/kf4tqv>



Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 S. Perry St.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
(770)-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218
77 Atlantic Dr.
www.w4aql.com
Alexander G. Carver
(404)894-2936
acarver@ece.gatech.edu

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist
Church
Intersection of Annistown
Rd & Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League
Masonic Lodge
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, Georgia
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10
AM

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License _____ Class _____ Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____

Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

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305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
(770) 945-0161
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Unibody and Frame Repair

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Mark Justice

WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION



Mark Holmes
Manager
KJ4VO

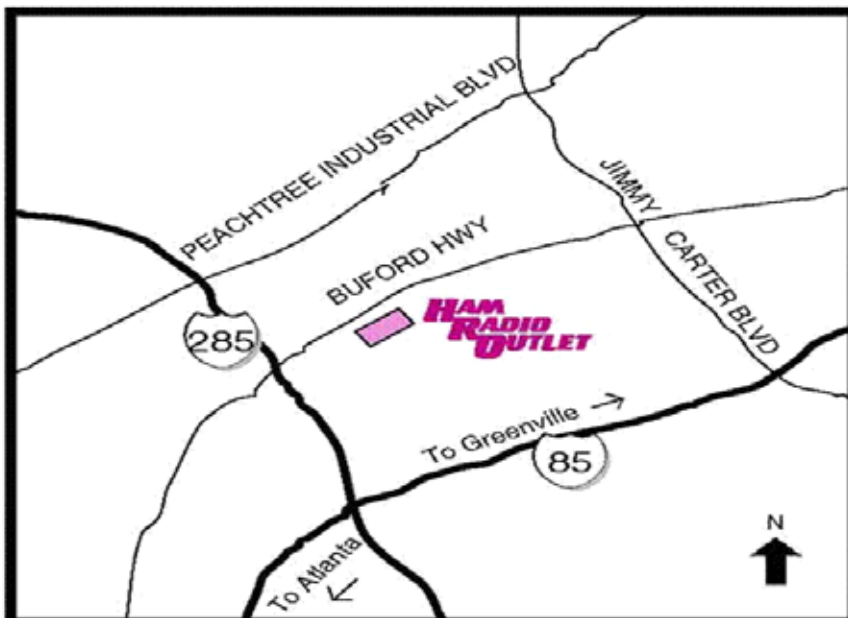
6071 Buford Highway
Atlanta, GA 30340 (Doraville)
770-263-0700 1-800-444-7927
Fax: 770-263-9548
e-mail: atlanta@hamradio.com
hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

John, KI4LMA
Dale, W4GCL

Bill, W5RQR
Jim, N1ABM

David, AI4XL
Josh, W4JDH

Tom, KB4HQA
Brian, WD4DX



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Japan Radio Corp.
Premier
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Arrow
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Force 12
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KLM
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M2
Valor
Van Gorden
MFJ
Ameritron
Comet

Gwinnett Amateur Radio
Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS Recurring Calendar

- *Monthly club meeting* is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

Check the [website](#) for location.

- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: *GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net* on the GARS 2 meter repeater.

- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: *GARS 6 meter net* on the GARS 6 meter repeater.

- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: *GARS Weekly Family Breakfast*, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive,

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You need an expert on your team
when buying or selling real estate.
10+ years experience of listening
and filling YOUR needs.



www.sharonadcock.prudentialgeorgia.com

**GARS Specialist
Top Negotiator
Top Agent**



Helping hams with the sale and purchase of their properties takes extra time, effort and dedication. Not every agent is willing to make that commitment. Call me for when you or your friends and family are ready to make a move.

* * References available upon request.